(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

Before any Government Department purchases computers, they are required to ensure that the system to be purchased is compatible with the National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), a Computer-Communication Network under the National Informatics Centre, Planning Commission. The reason therefor is to provide inter-departmental querying service through NICNET which has already been established.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

The compatibility requirement with NICNET is essential to enable transfer of information from one computer to another throughout the Government at Central, State and District levels.

[*Translation*]

Sugar Mills in Aligarh (U.P.)

5728. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for setting up of sugar mills in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). As on 31.7.1991, 2 applications for grant of Letters of Intent/ Industrial Licences for setting up of new sugar factories in District Aligarh of Uttar Pradesh are pending consideration of the Government. The Licensing Policy for Sugar Industry is presently being reviewed by the Government and decision on the pending applications, including the applications of Aligarh District, would be taken after the aforesaid review.

Doordarshan/AIR Stations in Uttar Pradesh

5729. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of IINFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Doordarshan/All India Radio stations in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up such centres in Hathras-Aligarh constituency of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). There is an approved scheme for establishment of a local radio station with 2x3 KW FM Transmitter at Aligarh. On its commissioning, Hathras district shall also stand benefitted.

On the other hand, Low Power TV transmitters, one each at Aligarh and Hathras, are already in operation. Parts of these two districts also receive TV service from TV transmitters operating at Delhi and Agra.

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs

5730. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item in the Hindustan dated August 8, 1991 under the caption, "Jeewan Rakshak Dawaon Ki Kami Par Chinta Vyakt"; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to remove the shortage of Life Saving drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Drug Industry Associations like OPPI, IDMA, etc. have represented to the Government that there could be shortage of some of the life-saving drugs in the country in the near future if Government does not give the price increases in medicines on account of increases in the cost of inputs etc. Government is aware of the situation and is taking appropriate action.

[English]

Proposal to set up Institutes of Information Technology

5731. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to set up four Institutes of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations of these institutes and by when these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). The Policy on Computer Software Export, Software Development and Training, 1986 envisaged the setting up of four Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in the country. However, it has been decided to defer the setting up of IIITs for the present.

Plight of Rural Labourers

5732. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Check on inflation alone can solve rural poverty" appearing in the Hindu dated May 6, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the income of the rural labours has increased during the last few years;

(c) if so, the percentage of income of rural labourers likely to be increased during Eighth Plan;

(d) whether there has been no improvement in the living standard of these rural labourers; and

(e) if so, reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (e). The Government is aware of the news item as well as the findings of the study conducted by the PHD House of Chamber of Commerce and Industry. For removal of poverty in rural areas, a number of measures are essential. Checking inflation is one such essential measure. Provision of employment and incomes to rural poor is necessary for improving their living standards. Keeping this in view, concerted efforts are made under anti poverty programmes to provide productive assets, and employment to the rural poor to improve their incomes and living standards.